



# Department of Justice

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Southern District of Alabama

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## **ERVIN BERNARD EARL, CONVICTED OF ATTEMPT TO MURDER A COOPERATING WITNESS, SENTENCED TO 30 YEARS**

MOBILE, Ala. – Ervin Bernard Earl, 25, of Mobile, Alabama, was sentenced today after a jury convicted him in September of 2006 for attempt to murder a witness in retaliation for the witness's testimony before the federal grand jury and for providing information to a law enforcement officer. Earl was also convicted of possession of a firearm during a crime of violence. United States District Court Judge William H. Steele sentenced the defendant to 20 years on the attempted murder charge and to a 10-year consecutive sentence on the firearm count.

United States Attorney Deborah J. Rhodes says, "Witness intimidation strikes at the core of our criminal justice system by putting witnesses in fear of telling the truth. This sentence recognizes that fact."

The charges arose out of a May 10, 2006, shooting in Mobile of a witness who had testified before the federal grand jury and provided information to law enforcement in connection with a drug investigation of Earl's brother.

"When witnesses are threatened, this, in turn, can negatively impact the integrity of our system. Hence, this type of behavior cannot and will not be tolerated," says Debra K. Mack, Special Agent in Charge, FBI, Mobile.

The investigation was conducted by the FBI and prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Deborah Griffin.

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